

March 01, 2015

**Testimony in Support of SB 68:**  
A Bill to amend the 1978 PA 368 entitled "Public Health Code";  
To define APRN Scope of Practice Roles

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Dear Senator Shirkey and Members of the Senate Health Policy Committee:

On behalf of the millions of Michiganders residing in SE Michigan, many who receive care/ or seek access to care within one of our Trinity Health Hospitals, this letter is in testimonial support of SB 68.

**LEGISLATION:**

Passage of SB 68 will allow MI APRNs to care for the residents of our communities within the full scope of practice for which they have been educated and trained. Specifically, SB 68 provides licensure and a defined scope of practice for Certified Nurse Practitioners (CNPs), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS).

- SB 68 is based on uniform, national language that was developed over a three year period and based on the National Council of State Board of Nursing (NCSBN), *Changes in Health Care Professions Scope of Practice: Legislative Considerations* through a consensus process that has been endorsed by 42 organizations.
- Michigan's outdated laws are some of the most restrictive in the country.
- SB 68 would bring Michigan's Public Health Code (PHC) into alignment with national education and practice standards.

**WHY is SB 68 CRITICAL to MICHIGAN: ACCESS/and BARRIERS to CARE:**

In a recent (2014) report the FTC summarily noted, "Our nation faces significant challenges in moderating health care spending and in providing **adequate access** to HC services, especially for our most vulnerable and underserved populations. Numerous expert health policy organizations have concluded that expanded APRN scope of practice should be a key component of our nation's strategy to deliver effective healthcare efficiently and in particular fill in gaps to primary care access."

- In Michigan under provisions of the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Expansion, as many as **600,000** MI residents will be eligible to enroll in Medicaid by 2019.
- As the percentage of residents over age 65 grows and as the demand for healthcare services increases (especially primary care) through the Healthy Michigan Program, the need for additional healthcare providers will continue to rise.
  - The state of Michigan ranks **higher than the nation** in persons over the age of 65 (U.S. Census Bureau, last revised, Feb. 05, 2015).

- Our providers of care (doctors, nurses, others) are also aging and are at/or nearing retirement. A misdistribution (shortage) of health care providers will continue to limit access in rural and underserved urban areas; access limitations will be heightened as service need grows.
  - Michigan has projected an expected shortage of 4,445 physicians by 2020.
  - In 2009, 67 of Michigan's 83 counties had either partial or full county geographic or population group primary health professional shortage areas (HPSA) designation by the federal government.
  - Currently, Michigan has 507 communities designated as health professional shortage areas (HPSA).
  - 45% of Michigan's family practice physicians plan to retire in the next 10 years.

As a chief nursing officer (CNO) within the great state of Michigan, I can personally attest to growing demand for access to healthcare services (which can be attributed to both an aging population and the Healthy Michigan initiative success). Within the system I work we have seen a community demand for services at 5% higher than anticipated service demand (volumes). To a system that sees (touches) nearly 300,000 patients annually, this is significant. We must address the known and projected shortages!

APRNs want to ensure that all Michigan residents obtain access to quality healthcare. Given this, new language was added to SB 68 that creates the APRN Health Resource Shortage Area Fund. This fund will provide grants to APRNs who begin employment in a Health Resource Shortage Area after the effective date of the Act. This fund is completely self-sustaining through the APRN licensure fee and does not use any state funds.

The residents of our communities deserve access to high quality, cost effective primary care and services. While such care can be provided by our physician colleagues, it can also be provided by highly educated and skilled APRNs. The residents of our communities need both. We ask legislators to be informed by facts and move forward to pass SB 68. Thank you.

**Respectfully Submitted:**

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Saint Joseph Mercy Health System: Ann Arbor; Livingston; Chelsea; Livonia; Oakland; Port Huron